

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 191255Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6567

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T TEHRAN 3930

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MO, JO, IR

SUB: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO

REF: (A) STATE 094155; (B) TEHRAN 3716

1. MORNING OF APRIL 19 EMBOFF MET WITH LT.GEN. MASSUMI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF WAR, TO PASS ANSWERS TO MASSUMI'S QUESTIONS CONTAINED STATE 94155 RE TRANSFER OF F-5A'S AND 155 MM HOWITZERS TO JORDAN/MOROCCO.

2. AFTER EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRANSFER OF MAP-ORIGIN F-5 AND FMS-ORIGIN AIRCRAFT, MASSUMI INDICATED IRAN WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO PAY THE 5 PERCENT TO PURCHASE U.S. RESIDUAL RIGHTS OR RETURN AIRCRAFT TO U.S.

3. MASSUMI WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY NT THAT IRAN COULD SHIP HOWITZERS DIRECTLY TO MOROCCO. HE INDICATED MFA HAD LAGGED BADLY ABOUT GETTING MOROCCAN REPRESENTATIVES TOGETHER WITH HIMSELF AND GENERAL TOUFANIAN TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF TRANSFER. SAID HE UNDERSTOOD USG WOULD NEED STATEMENT FROM IRANIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING FINAL ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE APPROVAL COULD BE PROCESSED.

4. MASSUMI DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IRAN PLANNED AIR OR

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SEA SHIPMENT OF HOWITZERS. UPON HEARING NEWS THAT

WEAPONS WOULD NOT FIT C-130, HE ASKED OFF-HANDEDLY ABOUT C-5, AND ACCEPTED FACT THAT U.S. COULD NOT PROVIDE AIRCRAFT WITH RAISED EYEBROWS BUT NO COMMENT. HE ADDED GOI WAS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF SHIPPING GUNS BY IRANIAN 747.

5. AFTER EMBOFF HAD CONCLUDED BASIC PRESENTATION, MASSUMI LEFT TO BRIEF GENERAL TOUFANIAN. WHEN MASSUMI RETURNED, HE SAID GENERAL TOUFANIAN WAS EN ROUTE TO AUDIENCE WITH SHAH AND WAS BRIEFED TO ANSWER HIS MAJESTY'S QUESTIONS IF ASKED BUT WOULD NOT HIMSELF BRING UP SUBJECT OF MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE.

6. IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED FOR FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS BY IRANIANS, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO FOLLOWING:

A. IF GOI WISHES TO BUY OUT U.S. RESIDUAL RIGHTS IN MAP-ORIGIN F-5, IS DEPARTMENT PREPARED TO APPROVE TRANSACTION? HOW LONG WILL USG PROCESSING TAKE?

B. WOULD DEPARTMENT APPROVE HOWITZER DEAL IN PRINCIPLE PENDING RECEIPT OF FINAL DETAILS ON IRAN/MOROCCO TRANSFER? ALTERNATIVELY WHAT IS DEPARTMENT'S BEST ESTIMATE OF TIME NEEDED TO APPROVE TRANSACTION AFTER OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF GOI-JORDAN-MOROCCAN TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS?

7. FOREIGN MINISTRY TODAY SPECIFICALLY ASKED AMBASSADOR WHEN DEAL WOULD BE APPROVED BY USG. WOULD, THERFORE, GREATLY APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT REQUESTED PARA 3, REF B.
HELMS

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